

FISCAL NOTE

SB 3965 - HB 3913

February 26, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires that the operator of a water supply system, wastewater system, water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, water distribution system, or wastewater collection system be a full-time employee with direct charge of the system or that there be a contract with another entity that employs a full-time operator. Current law requires the operator to be certified but does not require the operator to be full-time.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$800,000

Increase Local Expenditures* - \$2,000,000

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), state parks administer approximately 36 systems and have no full-time operators. State expenditures will increase at least \$800,000 for salary and benefits of 36 new full-time operators. The difference in salary between the current part-time operators and the new full-time operators is approximately \$20,000. The Departments of Transportation, Tourism, and Correction may also require additional funds.
- The number of local government systems that currently have full-time operators cannot be reasonably determined, but TDEC estimates an increase in local expenditures of at least \$2,000,000.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kmc